

REMARKS

Claims 2-4 and 11-23 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants add new claims 18-23. In addition, by this Amendment, claim 11 has been amended to better conform the claim with U.S. patent practice.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,310 to Casson *et al.*; hereinafter “Casson”, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,559 to Centola *et al.*; hereinafter “Centola”. For *at least* the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 2-4 and 12-17

Applicants respectfully submit claim 2 is patentable over the combination of Casson and Centola. For example, claim 2 recites a circuit board comprising, *inter alia*, a first substrate including, on a surface thereof, a first group of electrode terminals arranged in a matrix. The Examiner, in maintaining his rejection from the previous Office Action (Non-Final Office Action dated July 28, 2006), contends that in figure 2 of Casson, the double-sided circuit board 70 suggests the first substrate, and the conductive layer 72 formed on the bottom surface of the double-sided circuit board 70 suggests the first group of electrode terminals arranged in a matrix. Applicants respectfully disagree.

For instance, Casson does not disclose a first substrate including, on a surface thereof, a first group of electrode terminals arranged in a matrix. As noted earlier, the Examiner contends that the conductive layer 72 formed on the bottom surface of the double-sided circuit board 70

suggests the first group of electrode terminals that are allegedly arranged in a matrix. However, Casson, in figures 1A-1B discloses that on each side of the double-sided circuit boards 70, 75, for example, the double-sided circuit board 70, conductive layers 15, 20 are formed thereon. The conductive layers 15, 20 have patterns 16, 21 of various interconnecting lines defined on the top and bottom side of the insulator substrate of the circuit board 70. These substrates further have contact pads 40, 45, 50, 55, and 60 for electrically connecting the conductive layers to another conductive layer located on another circuit layer (Casson, col. 10, lines 6-20).

However, neither the contact pads 40, 45, and 50 or the contact pads 55, and 60 as shown in figure 1A and figure 1B of Casson, respectively, are arranged in a matrix as set forth in claim 1. At most, as discussed above, Casson discloses that these contact pads lie on the patterns 16, 21, but there is no disclosure or suggestion in Casson that such patterns are in the form of a matrix and nor is such an arrangement of the contact pads illustrated in the figures of Casson. As such, Casson does not disclose or suggest a first substrate including, on a surface thereof, a first group of electrode terminals *arranged in a matrix*. Centola does not cure these deficient teachings of Casson.

In light of the discussion above, Applicants respectfully submit that Casson and Centola, alone, or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest the above noted features of claim 1 in as complete detail as set forth in the claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Since claims 3-4 and 12-17 depend upon claim 2, which has been shown to contain patentable subject matter above, Applicants respectfully submit claims 3-4 and 12-17 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 11

Claim 11 recites features similar to the above noted features of claim 1, i.e., claim 11 relates to a method of connecting a first substrate and a second substrate to each other. The method comprises, *inter alia*, arranging an anisotropic electrical conductor between said first and second substrates, wherein said first substrate includes, on a surface thereof, a first group of electrode terminals arranged in a matrix. As such, Applicants respectfully submit claim 11 is patentable *at least* for reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 11.

New Claims

New claims 18 is patentable *at least* for reciting a circuit board unit comprising, *inter alia*, a first substrate including, on a surface thereof, a first group of electrode terminal arranged in a matrix, and a pressurizer pressurizing said first substrate, said anisotropic electrical conductor, and said second substrate such that they make close contact with one another. The pressurizer includes a first plane which makes contact with said first substrate, a second plane which makes contact with said second substrate, and a third plane which keeps said first and second planes in parallel with each other. The pressurizer is composed of a material having a spring characteristic. The first substrate, the anisotropic electrical conductor, and the second substrate are caused to make close contact with one another in a pressurized condition to electrically connect said first group of electrode terminals and said second group of electrode

terminals to each other. The prior art of record does not adequately account for all the inter-relationships between the claim elements recited in claim 18.

Claims 19-22 are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 23 recites features analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 18. Therefore, claim 23 is patentable for reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 18.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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